

# Western Canada

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A Land of Unprecedented Progress—  
Unqualified Prosperity of its  
Agricultural Settlers.

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Free Homes for Millions more.

## INFORMATION AND ADVICE,

MAY BE OBTAINED FROM:

W. D. SCOTT, Superintendent of  
Immigration, Ottawa, Canada.

J. OBED SMITH, Commissioner of  
Immigration, Winnipeg, Canada.

1907  
(110)

## EARLY HISTORY

He would have been called a dreamer of the most imaginative class who, 35 years ago, when the Northwest country became a possession of Canada, prophesied the present prosperity in the lapse of so short a period of time. That there were men in the country who, at that time, knew it was a valuable heritage goes without saying; but that it should so soon be an important element in swaying the future of the whole Confederation was scarcely to be expected, but it is none the less a real fact, that many of the present and late serious undertakings of the Canadian Government are the result of a conviction that there are in Western Canada the undeveloped resources to warrant it. Three transcontinental railways have been financed through on the ample assurance that there is business in the west to warrant their construction and, resources to liquidate the consequent indebtedness.

Manitoba, in the eastern portion of the country was created a province a year after the purchase from the Hudson's Bay Company in 1870, and so marked was its progress from the moment transport facilities were established, 10 years later in the C.P.R. from St. Paul, that all doubts were dispelled



and ample preparation made for the settlement of the country. In 1882 the western country was tapped by the extended main line of the C.P.R. That year also territorial government was established, the remaining outlying country being converted into four territories—Alberta, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan and Athabasca, with a central government for all at Regina. On account of the unprecedented growth of the country in the interval, some 23 years, the territorial government is now discarded and the four territories are converted into two provinces—Alberta and Saskatchewan—and given the fullest form of responsible government. The few thousand people of those days have grown into the half million of to-day, and the change was found to be necessary for the fuller settlement and expansion of the country.

## COMPARATIVE GROWTH

Let us now note some of the evidences of advancement. The first bushel of wheat was shipped in 1882, in fact, the first shipment from Manitoba, merely as a sample, was made in 1877. In 1904 there were under all crops, excepting hay, 1,575,000 acres in the western provinces producing.



Wheat, bushels..... 17,250,350  
Oats           "       ... 18,250,640  
Barley       "       ... 2,350,420  
realizing a total of about \$18,500,000  
for the farmers.

In Manitoba there were grown in 1904 41,600,000 bushels of wheat and other farm products in proportion. When Manitoba entered Confederation in 1870 its entire population of whites and half breeds was less than 10,000. Today its entire population is over 350,000; its capital, Winnipeg, has 100,000 of a population, and Brandon, Portage la Prairie and a score more of towns have from 2,000 to 10,000 each. As intimated above, the first mile of railway was built in the country in 1880, and today there are over 6,000 miles of road in operation, and further extensions are going ahead as fast as men and money can build them. There are two trunk lines in the country, the C.P.R. and the Canadian Northern, with the Grand Trunk commencing its transcontinental line. In addition to these trunk lines, all systems are extending branches to all sections where there are settlements to patronize them.

## GRAIN ELEVATORS

The grain elevator development is another assurance of the wonderful





expansion of the country, the one-fourth of the whole area, or about 95,000,000 acres of the country traversed by railways being now fairly supplied by elevators. In all there are 1,015 of them in the country with a combined capacity of 27,683,000 bushels and erected at a cost of over \$55,000,000. In addition to these, elevators at the head of the lakes have storage capacity of 18,200,000. Fourteen years ago the entire storage capacity of the elevators was 7,628,000 bushels, today it is 41,600,000, and increasing yearly from five to ten million bushels.

What the settlement of the country will be in the next ten years may well be imagined from the fact that last year the immigration was over 146,000 souls.

## NO LIMIT TO THE GRAIN PRODUCING AREA

There are those who believe the grain producing area of the country must be limited, but results tell a different story. In the Northern Peace River country, 900 miles north of the International Boundary, wheat is grown every year 62 to 65 lbs. to the bushel, from 20 to 30 bushels to the acre, and matures in 107 days from sowing. The length of day



and therefore the greater amount of summer heat in the 24 hours fully compensate for the disadvantages of latitude. As there are already thrifty settlements, with their grist mills, large fields of grain, and numerous herds of live stock in that north country, it only requires the extension of the railways now pushing on to its confines, to bring it to the front as a field for most extensive and profitable settlement.

The whole country embraces an area of over 385,000,000 acres and deducting water and broken land there is plenty of wheat growing territory to produce — 20 times — over the requirements of Great Britain.

As wheat can be grown at \$7.50 per acre, with wages to the men doing their own work besides, and as year in and year out the yield and price are 20 bushels at 60 cents, the profits are \$4.50 per acre, (this is a very conservative estimate). Assuming there are 200,000-000 acres in the country out of the 385-000,000 fit for wheat growing and that it was all cropped by say one million farmers on 200 acres each, the yield at 20 bushels would be 4,000,000,000 bushels and the profits nine hundred million dollars. Of course, all this area will never be under crop at once, but we use the figures merely to show the almost incomprehensible possibilities of the country.



## LIVE STOCK

As live stock doubles every three years, and grows like wheat while the farmer is sleeping, we expect that this will always be one of the leading features of the agricultural industry.

As the Pacific or warm winds melt the snow in Alberta almost as rapidly as it falls and renders the winter freezing much milder than in the farther east country, it makes the western province the most ideal ranching country in the world. There herds of live stock live out on the open prairie the entire year through and are in good condition every spring. The native grasses are highly nutritious and retain their qualities the whole winter through, making winter feed as inexpensive as summer pasturage. Large tracts of lands for ranching purposes are leased from the government at mere nominal figures, and the salaries of a couple of men are all the cost of raising large herds of horses, or cattle, or flocks of sheep. As the eastern country is reached, winter feeding becomes necessary, but in no portion more than three or four months in the year. It is even then inexpensive, as plenty of wild grass can be cut in the summer and saved for little more than the cost of handling.



As \$2,835,516 worth of live stock was marketed in that country in six months of last year, an idea may be formed of the proportions it may be led to attain when the country becomes fully settled up

## **DAIRYING**

This is the third leading business of the Northwest farmer, and may, like the others, be developed while the farmer is sleeping. It is found that on account of the cost of farm help, and to avert the expense of erecting suitable buildings for the purpose, the co-operative system is decidedly the best. Under it the entire management is in the hands of the government, under expert operatives, though control of sales, etc., rests with the patrons. The farmers simply deliver their milk or cream, usually the latter at the dairies, receive monthly advances, and balances of proceeds of sales at the close of the year. When all operations are placed in the hands of a few, the patrons get the best returns and are invariably pleased with the results.

## **EDUCATIONAL**

While contemplating immigrants may feel fully assured on the climatic conditions and agricultural capabilities of

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the country, they want to be equally satisfied with the facilities for educating their families. We may state there are no state-aided churches, all are free to worship as they please.

The schools are free and non-denominational—national. There is no tax for attendance, the government defrays the greater part of the cost of support of a highly certificated staff of teachers. There are schools in all country districts where there are a dozen pupils to attend them and the tax is rarely more than \$4 a year on every quarter section. In short, we may here remark there are no taxes in the country only as the people create them for improving roads, building bridges and supporting schools. As each province—Alberta and Saskatchewan—under the new provincial autonomy bill, receive at the start from the Federal Government \$1,100,000 a year, there will be but very inconsiderable taxation for any and all provincial purpose. They will be the lightest taxed countries in the known world—a matter of much moment to the settler. As the schools have increased from 76 in 1886, with a government grant of \$8,908 to 845, with a grant of \$273,600 in 1904, it is an additional evidence the country is forging ahead in leaps and bounds



## **FUEL**

This is the bugbear of many of the prairie countries. In Western Canada, however, there are but few districts without an ample supply of timber, and as coal of the best quality is everywhere present no farmer being more than 200 miles distant from a mine, and the price never more than \$4.50 per ton to him at his door, it is readily seen the fuel problem is already solved.

## **JOINT STOCK COMPANIES**

The increase of these is another assurance of the rapid growth of the country. In 1887 there were but four of them with a capital of \$137,000. Now there are 282 with a capital of \$19,809,000. These assurances carry their own arguments.

## **NOW READY**

As shown above, the railways are everywhere tapping new districts where free land is offered to all regardless of religion or nationality. Even in some of the older parts there is yet plenty of free land, Manitoba having 1,500,000 acres of it. When settlers prefer locat-



ing in the older districts, they can always buy from the railways, the Hudson's Bay Company or other corporations at from \$3.50 per acre up, according to locality, and all can do what present settlers are doing with enterprise and energy. Money can of course be used to great advantage, as indeed it can be in any new country, but there are thousands of men now well off in the country who came in without a dollar, who hired out with farmers, railways or others till they made sufficient to take up homesteads and start for themselves.

Any single man, or even married man, when husband and wife are able and willing to work, can do this. The great opportunity is, however, open to the man who can sell out his property elsewhere at some price, and bring in some stock, which always comes free, and make a start for himself. But two or three years' residence are necessary to make all such comfortable. The land is waiting and all that is necessary is for the industrious and enterprising to come in and possess it. The inconvenience of pioneering, to the man of small means are of course present; but two or three years' faithful work will overcome all these, and wealth and comfort will then follow rapidly as certainly as the sun rises and sets. To say that it is necessary to come in at once or the best



lands will be taken up, even though immigration is reporting at the rate of 10,000 to 15,000 a month, would be proposterous, there is such a vast area yet to be occupied; but the sooner the people come the sooner they will be over their pioneering experiences and comfortably settled with their flocks, grain fields and numerous neighbours with all the advantages of schools, post offices, stores, churches and other marks of progress around them.

The land is there for the asking, and the next ten years will see a large area of it everywhere dotted with improved farms, grain elevators and a rich, prosperous and pre-eminently contented population. If you have any acquaintances in the Canadian West write them, and they will satisfy you on all points of enquiry. If you have none, consult the government publications and you will find they overdraw nothing, but give you the absolute truth. On entering the country the government agents will give you all the information you may require as to the usages of the country, the conditions of settlement and everything else of importance to the stranger and settler.